TEXTING AS A METHOD TO IMPROVE ENGLISH WRITING SKILLS

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ABSTRACT

In the present times, most of our work is carried over or finished online. Chatting or communicating through the net is essentially a part of our lives. Using the available applications and services to improve our languages skills through messaging could be an innovative method to improve our listening, writing, reading and speaking skills in English. Students need to be guided and shown the way to incorporate these methods in their day-to-day life. And when such a system could be adopted, learning can happen anywhere even outside the classroom.

KEYWORDS: Cyber Slang, Chatbots, Revolutionary, Artificial Intelligence, Algorithm.

INTRODUCTION

The explosion of social media has completely changed the manner of communication. Whether via laptops, tablets, advanced mobile devices, Wi-Fi or enhanced 5G wireless networks, we are more connected than ever to everyone we know. Chatting online as a method to improve English is effective because the people on the other end of the chat are mostly our friends who are less judgemental of our mistakes. The ones who do offer corrections will usually be very friendly and try to help us learn, so there is no reason to feel embarrassed. When we chat in the topic that interests us like sports, movies or travel we are inspired to practice more. Through video, audio and texts along with writing our English reading, speaking and listening skills also improve.

How To Use Texting As A Method To Improve English Writing Skills

According to the discussion today, texting has given rise to negative side effects in classrooms, like the use of cyber slangs. Cyber slang is a term used to describe shortcuts, alternative words, or even symbols used to convey thoughts in an electronic document. Many times, we tend to send short messages to our friends without describing the details, for example a simple message such as "call me" can have different meanings and could be disconcerting. That is why it is a good practice to convey our message in detail and to learn to write appropriate sentences.

Capital letters and exclamatory marks should be diligently used. Capital letters indicate high emotions in messages like anger, panic and excitement. Customarily it is perceived as screaming and the reader may not be able to discern our thoughts and messages conveyed. In the same way exclamation marks are overused in a text message, if we want to specify a surprising detail we could use an exclamatory mark, but more than one is unnecessary. The idea conveyed will be the same if one is used in place of several.

Our phones are also equipped with an autocorrect program, as we type, the program predicts or suggests words. If we type a letter, it shows a list of common words starting from the letter which may not be always appropriate. The more letters typed, the more likely it is for the program to find the right word. This could be an opportunity for us to enhance our vocabulary and choose the right word. However, we should always be watchful and review the message being typed as the program does not always predict the right words to the context.

We should also avoid forwarding messages such as generic forwards or sending a string of unnecessary texts just to get a confirmation that the person on the other end has received it, not everyone has unlimited space in their inbox or like receiving spam messages. Nowadays texting is used in formal matters like business transactions or as a reminder for meetings, but they cannot be used as the only source of communication. We should also remember that text messaging is not private, someone other than the intended could read a confidential message or it could be sent to the wrong number.

Applications That Allow Us To Improve Our Writing Through Texting

There are a few applications available which can help to improve our English writing skills through texting. This can also be used for adult learners who find it inconvenient or nearly impossible to study in a classroom because of work and family obligations. While "WhatsApp" was not designed for language learners it is very helpful for finding English chat partners. The best way to start chatting is to find a public WhatsApp group for language learners, students can connect with their classmates and practice their English skills. The program even allows to organize groups based on topic and continue conversations that were started on mobile devices onto the computer. It also has a feature that allows to record voice messages which can help to practice pronunciation skills and learn how to spell unfamiliar words in English.

"iCorrect" is a tool that could help students improve their spelling and grammar as they write texts. "Ready4K!" is a texting game that helps to recognize some basics of English to beginners. "Cell-Ed" is a program which provides education through voice recordings and text messages. Such applications do not break the habit of texting, but encourage it in a constructive way. It can also be considered as a teaching tool if possible. In this digital age, even those who struggle to read are getting crucial exposure to the written word through texting, thus inevitably increasing their language skills.

"HelloTalk" is a language exchange platform that can be used to chat with native English speakers and ask questions about the language. A great feature on HelloTalk involves translating a message received or reconstructing what we want to say in a manner understandable to the person at the other end, thus allowing us to keep the conversation going from both sides. We can post "Moments" and interact with posts made by our HelloTalk friends. This allows us to see the language in a more natural context through posts made by native English speakers. "Tandem" is a similar application that allows us to meet native English speakers based on our location and begin language exchange using a range of methods like text messages, audio and video calls.

"italki" is a popular language learning website launched as a "social network for language exchange". It has transformed into a "community marketplace" where learners could pay certified language teachers for online lessons. italki has a special feature where you can keep a journal in your target language and native English speakers will correct your writing. It also has a free community where we can read articles written by teachers and participate in free language exchanges with other learners. There also are a lot of conversational bots or chatbots available in the English language, which are not necessarily designed for language learning, but might be useful for conversation practise. A bot could offer learners information on their errors, if it identifies one in the text or speech from the learner.

ChatGPT is a revolutionary tool and an advanced artificial intelligence powered language model that uses deep learning algorithms to interact through texts. It is designed to process and analyse massive amounts of text data and generate human-like text responses. It could help in brainstorming ideas to stimulate creativity in students. It is an excellent grammar and punctuation assistant in English writing. It helps expand vocabulary by suggesting several synonyms of the same word or phrase. It provides valuable suggestions and feedback regarding sentence structure, the flow of the paragraph or vocabulary. It helps to remove redundant words and simplify a complex sentence while maintaining the original meaning.

CONCLUSION

Digital writing has changed the way we work, socialize, communicate, read, and share knowledge, but while the medium has changed, the fundamental skills required to write well have not. Tools can help make our process more streamlined, but the utilization of these tools lie with our hands. They offer collaboration and feedback which is also one of the ways to improve language writing skills. however, the students should receive proper guidance from their peers and teachers to ensure that an actionable and goal-oriented feedback is being prioritized in order to improve.

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